

For Media Enquiries, contact:
Shelley Mantei, Mediatonic PR
1.604.649.2893
shelley@mediatonicpr.com

Attention: Assignment Desk, Entertainment Writers,
Music Writers, Lifestyle Writers, Arts

Canadian Connection for Reality TV Dance Series *Katya Virshilas Joins Cast of "Strictly Come Dancing"*

Vancouver, BC (August 25, 2009) – The celebrity dancing extravaganza is back! But with a Canadian connection. The BBC hit reality TV series, "Strictly Come Dancing" (the UK originator of "Dancing with the Stars") has added to its prestigious professional dancer lineup, Latin ballroom champion, Katya Virshilas, hailing from Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Packed full of glitz, glamour, show-stopping moves and more sequins than ever before, the sensational seventh series is putting the sparkle back into Saturday nights on BBC One. "This season is going to be packed full of new twists and fresh faces – and I'm so excited to be one of them," said Katya Virshilas, "Strictly Come Dancing" pro dancer. "Not only do I get to show the viewers how original and inspiring ballroom can be, but I also get to represent Canada in an acclaimed TV series with some of the best ballroom dancers in the world."

Sixteen new celebrity contestants have been paired with internationally renowned professional dancers and put through their paces. Learning everything from the tango to the paso doble, they will perform in front of a live studio audience, fighting to keep their place in the competition - and be this year's "Strictly Come Dancing" champions.

Virshilas is a talented chameleon of ballroom dance, who is not only trained in ballroom, but also jazz, ballet, hip hop, modern, folk dance, Broadway jazz, burlesque, swing, mambo, and salsa. Virshilas has won numerous dance championships including being the youngest ever BC Latin Dance Champion and representing Canada at the World Championships. She has choreographed Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere for their roles in "Shall We Dance," and is most memorable for having performed the scene-stealing, legendary tango with Antonio Banderas in the film, "Take the Lead."

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About Katya Virshilas www.katyavirshilas.com

Latin ballroom dance champion, Katya Virshilas, is a professional dancer on the hit BBC One series, "Strictly Come Dancing." This Canadian has choreographed Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere in, "Shall We Dance," performed the iconic tango with Antonio Banderas in, "Take the Lead"; and starred in Shiamak Davar's stage production, "I Believe" in India. Katya, has also appeared in popular TV shows, such as, "Supernatural," "Smallville," and "The Guard"; she also has a TV series in development, "An Invitation to Dance," which combines her talents for acting and dancing, as she travels the world.